



HUNTER ADVOCACY

Government and Public Affairs Report

Fourth Quarter, FY 2022

April - June 2022



SCI in Action:

- *In Court*
- *On Capitol Hill*
- *In State Capitols*
- *Around the World*
- *In Public Relations*



A Message from CEO W. Laird Hamberlin and EVP of International Government & Public Affairs Benjamin Cassidy

We've told you many times that SCI is the leader in hunter advocacy, but in this new quarterly report, we are showing you how we accomplish that. Although this report only covers April through June 2022, the last three months of our fiscal year, it's a snapshot of what SCI's advocacy team does to defend hunting all year long.

There's a lot of quiet, grinding work behind the scenes that goes on between the announcement of a challenge we've taken on and the announcement of the outcome. And sometimes we're working on things that you are completely unaware of, such as efforts to open Sunday hunting across the country or attending critical state meetings where hunting regulation changes are set, or monitoring thousands of new bills and proposals in all 50 state legislatures, Capitol Hill, and parliaments overseas for new laws affecting hunting and conservation.

In this quarter alone, SCI has faced off 10 different trophy import bans in six countries, including the US Congress and New York State legislature, plus nine efforts to either ban predator hunting or key hunting techniques, such as bear baiting. Our litigation team actively participated in eight different cases affecting hunting rights in the US, including hunting access and the use of lead ammo. Our government affairs team is currently fighting a very serious threat to the US conservation model and the way we fund our conservation departments across the country. Our two recently hired state liaisons have taken on 32 different challenges in 13 states across the US, including fights over state hunting guidelines, access issues and attacks at the game commission level. And then there's the fights we have won with the great work of our chapters in Alaska, California, and Switzerland.

You'll find it all in the pages that follow – the wins, the losses, the draws and the continuing battles. When it comes to defending your right to hunt, SCI is relentless. Thank you for being a part of the SCI team and please use this report to show your hunting friends why they should become members too.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Laird Hamberlin".

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "B. Cassidy".

Benjamin J. Cassidy
EVP of International,
Government & Public Affairs

Fourth Quarter Targets | *What's Been in Our Sights*

Nonresident Hunting Issues

SCI has weighed in on efforts to restrict hunting opportunities for nonresident hunters in numerous states, from what would amount to a closure of bighorn sheep hunting for nonresidents in New Mexico to brown bear, caribou and sheep closures in Alaska.

Predator Hunting Challenges

Predators are the darling of anti-hunters and SCI is fighting hunting closures, efforts to eliminate traditional hunting methods and other obstructions to science-based management of bears, mountain lions, bobcats, and other predators. SCI has intervened at the federal and state level.

Hunting Access Restrictions and Expansions

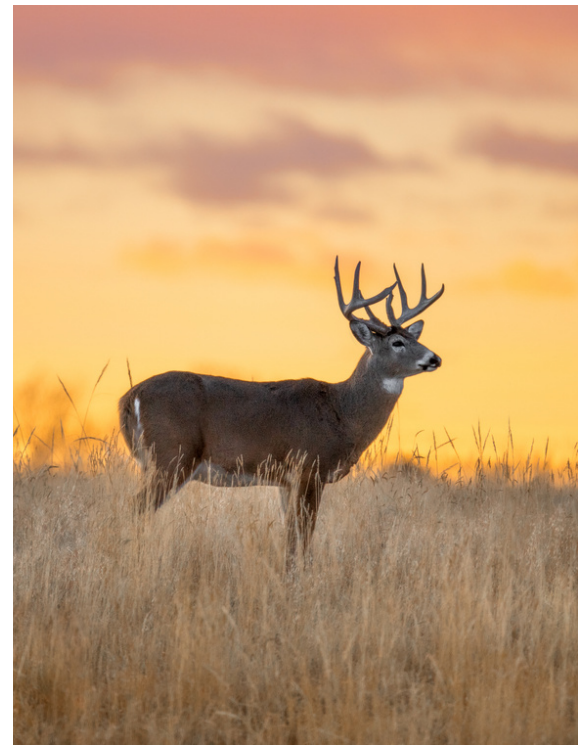
This past quarter, SCI has challenged hunting access restrictions on National Wildlife Refuges and Alaska National Preserves. We joined allies to oppose the Alaska Federal Subsistence Board from shutting out non-subsistence hunters from caribou, moose and sheep hunting on over 1 million acres of Alaska wilderness. In contrast, we supported the governor of Georgia on signing no-net-loss legislation and the opening of Sunday hunting in various states.

Trophy Import Bans

New efforts to ban the import and movement of trophy shipments developed in New York State, Finland, Switzerland, Belgium and the United Kingdom, along with a back-door ban in the US Appropriations Bill for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. SCI countered efforts in the US and worked with partners and chapters abroad to confront attacks on trophy imports from Africa and elsewhere.

Supporting Authority of States and Science-based Management

SCI continues to fight for the authority of states and their conservation departments to apply science-based management of wildlife. That has included supporting states where gray wolves have met recovery goals and should be removed from the U.S. Endangered Species List, opposing national bans on predator contests by the federal government, and securing the Washington game commission's support for science-based management of mountain lions to stop continuing elk herd declines.



Lead Ammo and Gun Bans

The pressure to ban the use of lead ammo and fishing tackle has emerged in National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges and statewide in New York as well as overseas. SCI has helped defeat efforts in New York and continues to challenge others. SCI opposed an order there to outlaw millions of firearms, including many used for hunting and shooting sports.

Attacks on Conservation Funding

SCI is actively confronting the proposed RETURN Act, which would gut all 50 states of conservation funding and impact all hunting and fishing activities across the country.

CITES Proposals

SCI and SCIF weighed in on possible proposals to CITES by USFWS, including the downlisting of the Aleutian cackling goose and of the Mexican desert bighorn sheep. Plus, we opposed submission of a proposal to list caribou/reindeer on Appendix I and are opposing the uplisting of hippopotamus to Appendix I.

Youth Hunting Initiatives

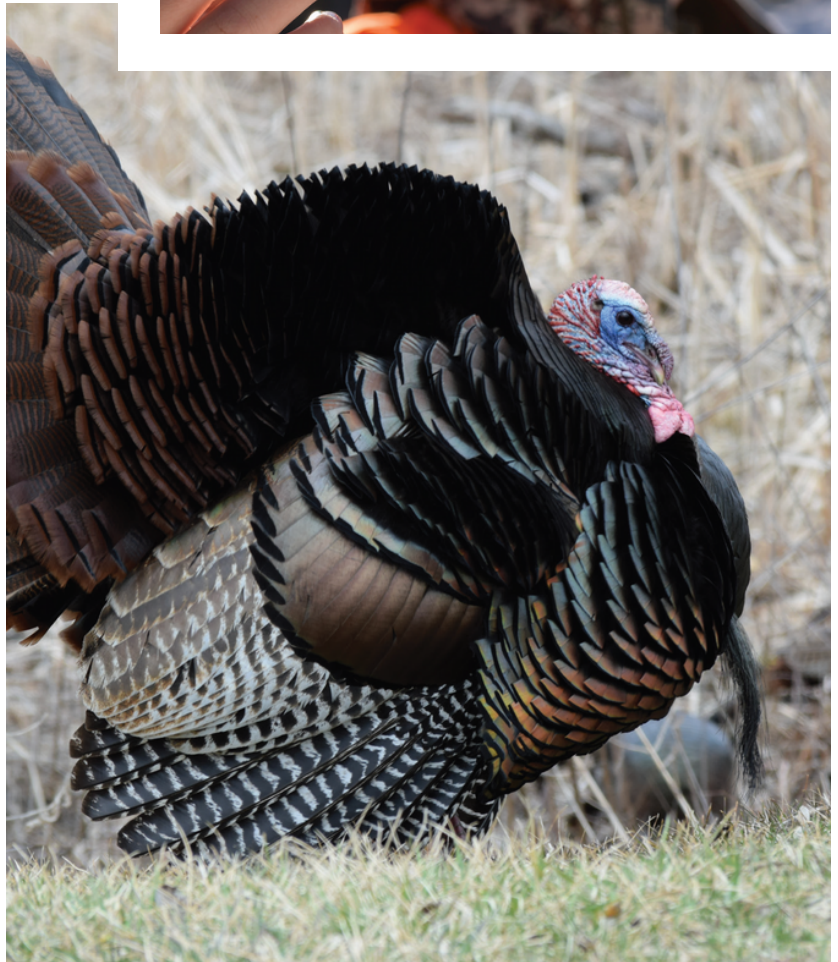
SCI supported a reduced-price lifetime hunting license for Kansas youth and the offering of hunter education courses in Colorado schools.

Anti-Hunting Tactics to Change State Game Commissions and to Affect Hunting Seasons and Regulations

SCI is monitoring and countering anti-hunters targeting state game commissions to change the size of boards and the method in which members are selected. Efforts like these were seen in Arizona, Missouri, New England and Washington. A ballot initiative seeks to close all hunting in Oregon, and in California waterfowl hunting in specific areas is at stake. We've also supported a number of states in the release of favorable regulations and quotas for this hunting season, including Arizona bear and mountain lion guidelines, Iowa turkey regulations, access and opportunities in Minnesota and an expanded New York turkey hunting season.

International

Overseas, SCI has worked with its international advocacy staff, chapters and partners to defeat a trophy ban in Switzerland, co-host a pro-sustainable use event in Brussels, facilitate meetings between African delegates and the Belgium government regarding a trophy import ban; oppose a hunting import ban in Finland; support European partners to address an EU draft resolution on livestock farming and wolves; oppose Spanish anti-hunting legislation; and support a hunting petition in Europe by FACE.



SCI is the first voice for hunters in Washington, D.C. by monitoring, evaluating, and lobbying on federal legislation impacting hunters and wildlife conservation. SCI ensures that hunting interests are at the forefront when important bills come up by building relationships with Congressional leaders as well as staying current on the issues.

CURRENT ISSUES

Interior Appropriations: Despite last year's defeat of the Section 436 defacto trophy ban, the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, includes Section 439 – the same anti-hunting language. Current language in Section 439 of the bill would place an effective ban on the import of elephant or lion trophies from Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Neither the hunting regulations in these countries nor conservation status of these species warrant a defacto trophy ban, and the decision to place restrictions is based solely on emotions.

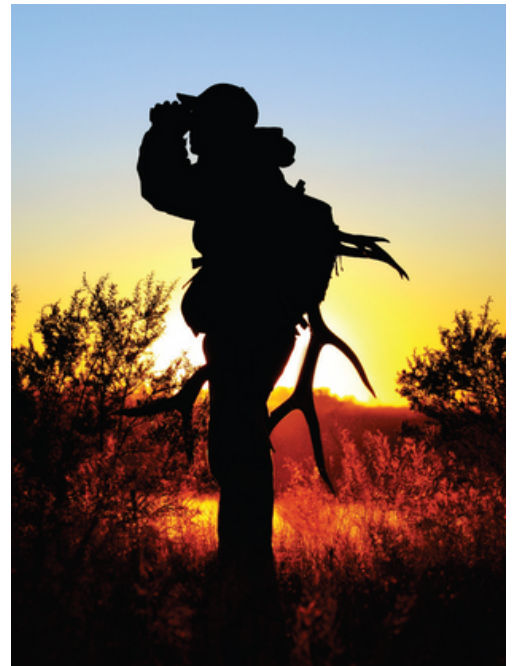
RETURN Act: Congressman Andrew Clyde (GA-R) introduced the RETURN (Repealing Excise Tax on Unalienable Rights Now) our Constitutional Rights Act. This bill would eliminate the primary funding source for state fish and wildlife agencies. Since 1937, The Pittman-Robertson Act has put \$15 billion towards wildlife conservation, hunter recruitment, construction of public shooting ranges and other activities. In fact, the excise tax directed by Pittman-Robertson generated more than \$1 billion in funding last year alone. With no concrete method or source to replace these critical funds, this bill is a direct attack on American conservation.

State Management Authority: H.R. 7398, or the Prohibited Wildlife Killing Contests Act of 2022, would ban predator killing contests on federal lands. Wildlife management decisions, including predator control, should be left to the states and not dictated across-the-board by Congress.

Hunting Access: The Department of the Interior has dropped "expand access to hunting" from its hunting council goals, even though it was prioritized in previous administrations. Clearly, hunting access is not a priority to the Biden Administration. No-Net-Loss of hunting and fishing access on public lands continues to be a priority to SCI as we lead with our No-Net-Loss petition.

Elephant Imports: The FWS issued six import permits for elephant from Zimbabwe. This is the first issuance in over five years, and a huge win for hunters! The process continues to be lengthy, but the FWS will continue to process the backlog of permit requests. SCI recently sent a letter to the FWS, encouraging them to continue supporting hunting and its benefits to conservation.

FWS Lead Ammo Ban: SCI supports the proposal by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) in its draft 2022-2023 Hunt Fish Rule to reduce the regulatory burden on the public by increasing access for hunters on federal lands and waters. Our organization, however, strongly opposes the agency's proposal to phase out lead ammunition in National Wildlife Refuges throughout the country. The rule would also prohibit the use of lead fishing tackle.



SCI is unique among hunting organizations for having in-house legal team dedicated to defending hunting as a conservation tool. Our attorneys have litigated dozens of cases throughout the United States and filed six briefs in U.S. Supreme Court cases involving domestic and international hunting-related issues. A staff attorney in the European Union's capital of Brussels, Belgium, monitors issues in Europe. Our team is the only one among hunting rights organizations that defends all hunters for all species from around the world.



WINS THIS QUARTER

Nonresident Hunting in Alaska

Along with its Alaska Chapter and the Alaska Outdoor Council, SCI filed an amicus brief in support of the Alaska Board of Game in a challenge to the Board's allocation of resident and non-resident bear hunting permits on Kodiak Island. The state court rejected the plaintiff's challenge and held that the Alaska Constitution does not prohibit reserving some permits for nonresidents. The court expressly acknowledged SCI's arguments in its decision. The judge's ruling is a win for Alaskan hunters, nonresident hunters, and wildlife conservation across the state.

Defense of Hunting Black Bears Over Bait

SCI submitted an amicus brief in defense of the U.S. Forest Service's policy of deferring to state management authority and allowing the harvest of black bears over bait where authorized by state law, including on National Forests in Idaho and Wyoming. SCI's brief directly refutes the plaintiffs' allegations and explains the potential benefits of hunting over bait.

Alaska National Preserves

SCI, partner organizations, and the State of Alaska filed a summary judgment brief defending the 2020 National Park Service rule that withdrew certain restrictions on hunting on Alaska National Preserves. The National Park Service has chosen not to defend this rule, making SCI's involvement that much more important.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Hunting on National Wildlife Refuges

Despite SCI's motion to intervene in the case, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Center for Biological Diversity are engaged in settlement discussions to resolve this case. A settlement could prohibit the use of lead ammunition on refuges. The district court initially denied a motion to intervene by SCI and its partners, requiring SCI to appeal that decision to the Ninth Circuit.

Alaska Federal Subsistence Board

Board actions continue to threaten to shut down hunting opportunities on extensive public lands in Alaska to all but federally qualified subsistence users. Litigation may ultimately be the best course of action to prevent this federal overreach.

Import of Leopard Trophies

A federal district court denied SCI's motion to dismiss a case in which anti-hunting groups are challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's issuance of two dozen permits to import leopard hunting trophies, including permits issued to a number of SCI members. The court's ruling wasn't unexpected. Now the case will proceed to the merits. If the plaintiffs win, the FWS will have to reconsider how it issues leopard import permits and could have impacts on other species as well. SCI intervened in the case to defend against this challenge.

Grey Wolf Management

The federal district court vacated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2020 removal of gray wolves from the Endangered Species Act lists of threatened and endangered species. SCI and the NRA were the first parties to appeal the court's order. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is still deciding whether to pursue an appeal. If the district court's order is allowed to stand, it will limit the Service's ability to delist wide-ranging recovered species (like grizzly bears) in the future.

Use of Lead Ammunition on National Forests

A case that has been ongoing for 10 years is still in litigation. Anti-hunting groups are challenging the use of lead ammo in Kaibab National Forest in Arizona, alleging a violation of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Despite losing three times in the district court, the plaintiffs have appealed for a third time to the 9th Circuit. SCI intervened jointly with NRA to defend the use of lead ammo. NSSF also intervened separately. Depending on how the appellate court rules, the use of lead could be threatened in all national forests. Briefing is scheduled to conclude in September.



In every state, Safari Club International monitors, tracks, and evaluates legislation and regulations impacting hunting, hunters, and wildlife conservation. SCI works with pro-sportsmen elected leaders through the collaboration of the individual state sportsmen's caucuses. Building relationships between state leaders and sportsmen as well as staying current on the issues ensures that SCI is protecting your right to hunt. The SCI State Advocacy Network and local state Chapters play a critical role in the success of SCI's advocacy efforts. Hunters become a valuable voice in each state by joining SCI's Hunter Advocacy Action Center (HAAC).

WINS THIS QUARTER

Arizona Commission Hunt Guidelines: Submitted testimony from SCI President Sven Lindquist in support of hunt guidelines and in opposition to the concerted effort by anti-hunting forces to stop bear and mountain lion hunting. The hunt guidelines for bears and mountain lions were retained by the Commission.

California: Pro Hunting Coalition – State advocacy team embedded into the northern California hunting coalition for legislative and regulatory issues.

California: Bear Hunting Ban – Defeated bear hunting ban at the Commission level.

California: Presented award to State Senator Brian Jones at the SCI San Diego Chapter fundraiser. Senator Jones helped SCI in 2020 with the fight against Senate Bill 1175, ironically named the Iconic African Species Protection Act, which would have done anything but protect African wildlife. This terrible legislation was eventually defeated in the legislature.

Colorado: Hunter Education in Schools – Provided joint written testimony from Coalition in support of Hunter Education as an option in the school system. Bill signed by governor and SCI attended Day in Capitol to celebrate the hunter education bill and 125 years of the Colorado Wildlife and Parks Department.

Colorado: Defeat of Predator Hunting Ban – Coalition efforts led to passing of 11 pro-sportsmen bills and no anti-sportsmen bills, including the defeat of Colorado SB 31, which was a proposed ban on hunting and trapping of mountain lions, bobcats and lynx.

Georgia no-net-loss legislation signed into law: There was an effort in Georgia this year to update their code section regarding no-net-loss from the year 2005 to 2022. This effort would permanently protect an additional 200,000 acres that have been added to state lands since that time. SCI submitted a formal letter to the Senate Rules Committee Chairman asking for the bill to be expeditiously put on the calendar for further consideration after it unanimously passed the House. The bill was on the Senate calendar the following day and eventually passed the Senate without a dissenting vote as well. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed the bill into law during the week of May 2nd.

Iowa Turkey Legal Equipment Bill: Submitted written testimony from SCI President Sven Lindquist in support of additional turkey hunting legal equipment options, which was signed into law by the governor.



WINS THIS QUARTER

Kansas: State advocacy team appeared in camo at the Capitol Event for Legislators. (See photo below)

Kansas Youth Lifetime License Bill: Submitted joint written testimony from Coalition in support of a reduced-price lifetime hunting and fishing license for youths 1-5 and 6-7. Bill signed by the Governor.

New York Big 5 Trophy Importation Ban: Senate Bill 2814 would have restricted the importation, transportation, and possession of any parts for six different African species. This is a perennial bill that has been introduced each year since 2016. It passed the Senate on a 52-10 vote after it came out of Committee with a 9-2 vote. SCI has been the tip of the spear on this issue opposing it extensively through social media and with a HAAC campaign. SCI also used video from the recorded committee meeting to create a clip of the Chairman saying that the two no votes were “two votes in favor of big game poaching,” which has been used to highlight the emotional disconnect many elected officials have with this issue. This bill, ultimately, did not have any further consideration after passing the Senate thanks in large part to the work of SCI members and SCI.

New York Lead Ammunition Ban: This bill would have banned lead ammunition on all state lands in New York and, importantly, all land contributing to surface water that contributes to the NYC water supply. The language is problematic for numerous reasons, including that the surface water provision could potentially impact private land as well. The bill passed the assembly but, despite some 11th hour maneuvers by the legislature, it failed to move further before the legislature adjourned. SCI created a HAAC campaign pushing back against this legislation.

Virginia public land Sunday hunting signed into law: SCI was intimately involved in the efforts to move this bill along, including working behind the scenes, creating a HAAC, promoting on social media, signing onto a group letter, and having newly hired full-time staff (then intern) Chris LaCivita testify in committee as a college student who was forced to hunt in neighboring states on the weekend because he hunted public land and was unable to hunt on Sundays in the Commonwealth on public land. Gov. Glenn Youngkin has now signed the bill into law, and it will come into effect this summer.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

North Carolina: Bear Sanctuary Hunts – SCI previously submitted comments supporting the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) and the USFS in their assertion that three bear sanctuaries in North Carolina could, and should, have a regulated hunt to reduce the population and help to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the area. As expected, anti-hunting organizations vehemently opposed this effort and have formally filed letters of opposition. Unfortunately, only 10 letters of opposition to regulation changes are required to have regulations sent to the legislature for further review. The North Carolina Rules Review Commission objected to the rule in its April meeting stating that it was unclear and ambiguous, and that it lacked specific guidelines for granting permits.

The Commission ultimately approved a revised version of the rule in their May meeting. With the delayed vote though, the legislative review period will now extend through the 2023 legislative session.

SCI strongly opposes a bill disapproving of the WRC rules and has produced a HAAC campaign pushing back against this effort. SCI fully expects a similar bill to be filed for the 2023 legislative session, and SCI will continue to advocate for the best available science/increasing opportunities for sustainable, regulated hunting.



EFFORTS TO CLOSE OR LIMIT APEX PREDATOR HUNTING SEASONS

Colorado: Ballot 2024 – Bobcat trapping and hunting ban.

Oregon: IP 3 Initiative – This initiative will ban all hunting in Oregon if it reaches the ballot and is affirmed. Ballot language was certified after challenges, including SCI's comments, were filed regarding the language of the initiative. Signature collection can now begin by proponents.

Washington: Creation of a spring bear season was lost when the governor appointed anti-bear hunting commissioners despite the HAACs and written testimony from SCI President Sven Lindquist. Over 26,000 comments were submitted. This issue will continue in the fall.



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION STRUCTURES/MAKE-UP

Missouri: Constitutional amendment to expand commission to eight elected officials instead of four appointed by the governor.

Oregon: Expect a fight next year as IP3 proponents plan to bring their own bill to revamp the commission structure.

Washington: The commission voted down the spring bear hunt, despite a coordinated and concerted pro-hunting effort. The governor appointed three members for their first meeting on this issue, and they voted down the season.

SCI Advocacy presents the State Legislator of the Year Award to South Carolina Representative Bobby Cox. Left to Right: SCI President Sven Lindquist, Director-At-Large Trevor Santos, EVP Ben Cassidy, Rep. Bobby Cox, EC Member Louis Cole, and State & Local Liaison Bee Frederick.



NONRESIDENT ANGST HIGH AMONGST RESIDENT HUNTERS

Alaska: FSB anti-hunting rulings continue. The sheep hunt is the latest to be targeted, coming on the heels of a defacto caribou closure.

Arizona: 10% cap on OTC-bill was signed by the governor and the commission has begun implementing it.

Kansas: Proposing resident preferences on special hunts and public land, particularly on waterfowl and deer.

New Mexico: Has a proposal at the commission level to restrict the allocation of nonresidents for bighorn sheep hunts. If enacted as proposed, it would result in no nonresident bighorn sheep permits allocated.

Utah: Passed a bill that affects those who may assist hunters on big game hunts. This bill affects nonresidents who pay guides and helpers to assist in locating big game animals.

Wyoming: Passed a 90/10 allocation for the Wyoming Big 5 species, further restricting nonresidents. Changes to permits and application processes are being discussed by the Wyoming Wildlife Task Force.

SUNDAY HUNTING LEGISLATION

Maine: Sunday hunting effort in the legislature failed to pass again. The initial bill proposed opening the entire state; it was then changed to the northern half of the state. SCI created a HAAC supporting the effort which ultimately did not move. There is now a citizen-led lawsuit suing the state using the recent "right to food" constitutional amendment that was put on the books last year as a challenge to the Sunday hunting ban. Pennsylvania: Efforts to expand Sunday hunting further in PA have been laid on the table this year, but former SCI Legislator of The Year, Sen. Dan Laughlin has asked for continued support of his efforts, which SCI has done working with in-state groups and through a successful HAAC campaign.

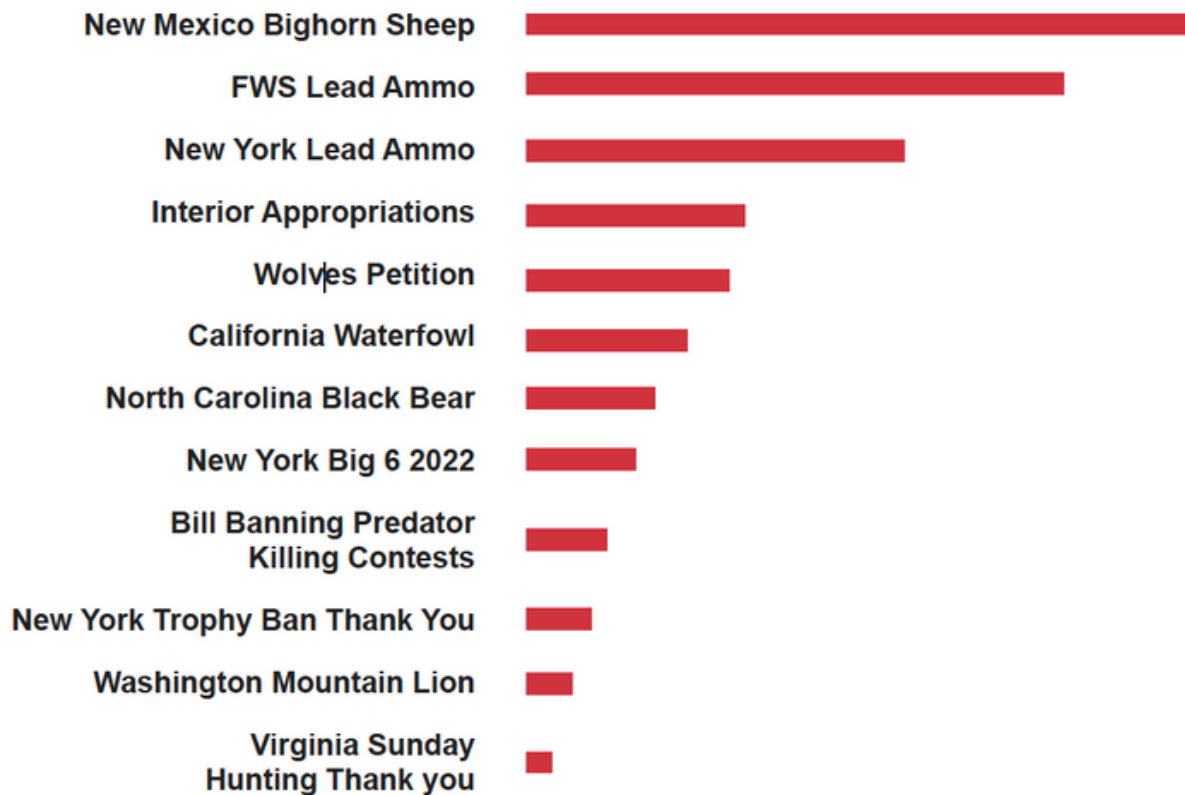
South Carolina: SCI 2022 State Legislator of the Year Representative Bobby Cox has been leading an effort to open public land Sunday hunting in South Carolina. SCI previously produced a HAAC supporting this issue and while the bill did pass out of the House Committee and out of the full House, it ultimately stalled in the Senate and died upon adjournment. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has communicated that they will begin the regulations process again to work toward opening some of the public lands – likely both National Forests and then another 5-7 WMAs, which approximates 70% of all public land. SCI has had conversations with the SC DNR on this issue and will stay engaged throughout the regulations progress to support increased access.



Grassroots Action | *Hunter Advocacy Action Center*

Through the Hunter Advocacy Action Center “HAAC,” over 54,000 advocates can take action on the most important issues affecting hunters. The HAAC is the most effective tool for hunting advocacy, where SCI can take your voice to the leading decision makers around the world including state legislators, the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, and international governments. Our petitions and contact campaigns have real results, including the defeat of trophy bans, standing up to big tech, protecting hunting access, and much more.

TOP 12 ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS THIS QUARTER



HERE ARE OUR TOP PRIORITIES

Interior Appropriations Section 439: <https://act.safariclub.org/opmygep> OPPOSE Section 439 of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill which would serve as a defacto trophy import ban.

Predator Killing Contests: <https://act.safariclub.org/abkff4o> Support state management authority and oppose this federal bill to ban predator killing contests.

FWS Lead Ammo Ban: <https://act.safariclub.org/1orzntn> Oppose the ban of lead ammunition on National Wildlife Refuges.

OPPOSE the RETURN Act: <https://act.safariclub.org/pasj8uf> This bill is a direct attack on American conservation funding and the Pittman Robertson Act.

Washington Mountain Lion: <https://act.safariclub.org/lh93asd> Stand up for science-based conservation of the Blue Mountain elk herd and sound predator management.

What We Stand For: <https://act.safariclub.org/gvrksj7> Tell Congress what we stand for as hunters.

Women in Hunting Stories: <https://act.safariclub.org/nw3d2hr> In preparation for our 2023 convention, Celebrating Women in Hunting, here is an opportunity for women to share their hunting stories.

Oppose Hunting Import Bans Around the World! <https://act.safariclub.org/l5eaw2E> The U.S., EU, or any other foreign government has no right to dictate the management of African wildlife through import bans or other restrictions.



SCI's specialized staff and Brussels-based attorney have collaborated with conservation partners and our international chapters to interact with government leaders and agencies on behalf of the hunting community. Together we have challenged a number of efforts that threaten hunting rights, trophy importations and conservation efforts abroad. Whether it's hunting partridge, roe deer or Cape buffalo, SCI has and will continue to defend your right to hunt.

WINS THIS QUARTER

Belgium: Co-Organized Brussels Event – Along with FACE, CIC, and ELO, SCI and SCIF co-organized a pro-sustainable use event in Brussels hosted by European Parliament's Intergroup on "Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside." The conference "Is Africa being heard? Hunting, Conservation and Livelihoods" featured high-level speakers and panelists from Africa and Europe.

Switzerland: Trophy Ban Defeated – In March, Switzerland's National Council approved a motion by Isabelle Chevalley calling for a ban on the import and transit of hunting trophies of animals listed in Appendices I to II of the CITES Convention. The motion was accepted in the large chamber and a vote was scheduled in the small chamber. On May 30, the motion was rejected in a vote of 22 to 17 by the small chamber of the Swiss Parliament and the ban is now dead.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Canada: Firearms Ban – On March 16th the Canadian government extended the amnesty period for the May 2020 Order in Council (OIC) that outlawed millions of lawfully registered firearms. Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau and his party ignorantly touted the gun control measure as an “assault-style” weapons ban. The OIC, however, outlaws over 2,000 makes and models of firearms, many of which are widely used for hunting, sporting, and self-defense.

Belgium: Trophy Import Ban – In March, the Parliament approved a proposed resolution prohibiting the import of hunting trophies of certain species, including white rhino, hippopotamus, elephant, argali, lion, polar bear, and many antelopes. FACE and SCI sent letters to members of parliament noting the huge negative impact a decision like this would have on wildlife conservation and local communities in Africa. In April, as a result of being in Brussels for SCI et al.’s event, several African representatives were able to meet with key members of Belgium’s government to explain why Belgium should not implement the ban.

European Union: European Parliament – Draft resolution on “Protection of livestock farming and wolves in Europe.” Hunters have been and always will be key players in the conservation and management of wolves in Europe. Sustainable hunting can play a key role in the long-term conservation and management of wolves in Europe through an EU legal framework.

Finland: Trophy Import Ban – The Finnish government submitted a proposal in the national Parliament to ban the importation into Finland of hunting trophies for all CITES Appendix I species as well as African elephant, argali, southern white rhinoceros, polar bear, African lion, and hippopotamus. The proposal mirrors similar efforts in other European countries but is particularly troubling because Finland is and traditionally always has been a strong supporter of sustainable use hunting and related wildlife issues.

United Kingdom: Trophy Import Ban – The long-standing threat of a UK trophy import ban seems nearer to fruition than ever before. SCI has worked on opposing the ban for more than two years, but at this point, the odds are against defeating the ban. The current iteration of the bill would prohibit import of thousands of species (most of which are completely unrelated to hunting).

Spain: Anti-Hunting Legislation – Draft legislation in the Spanish parliament would hurt the Spanish and international hunting community. The legislation would affect hunting by requiring special training for all dog owners; prohibiting the harvest of animals due to overpopulation without veterinary control; prohibiting injury or death of all types of animals not explicitly for human consumption (ex. fox or other predator hunting); eliminating traditional bird hunting with traps; imposing severe breeding regulations and ending all pet shops or the trade of dogs, cats and other pets.

Europe: FACE Sign for Hunting Petition – Conservation is Under Threat. Bird hunting habitat for game, large carnivore management, Europe’s hunting cultures, and our incentives to conserve nature are at risk from problematic policymaking. Add your name here: <https://signforhunting.com>.



CITES

The 19th CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP19) will occur in November in Panama. Members of the Party have already begun to submit proposals to be discussed and voted upon at the meeting. SCI with SCIF monitor and evaluate emerging proposals to create action plans to support pro-sustainable use proposals and oppose proposals that are anti-hunting and will hurt conservation programs in range nations.

SCI AND SCIF FOUNDATION SUBMIT CITES COMMENTS TO FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SCI and SCIF submitted a comment letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to a Federal Register Notice in which the FWS listed possible species proposals it may submit for consideration at CoP19.



Aleutian Cackling Geese: FWS will likely submit a proposal to transfer Aleutian Cackling Goose from Appendix I to Appendix II based on recovery of the species.

Reindeer/Caribou: FWS considered whether to submit a proposal to list reindeer/ caribou worldwide on Appendix I, a proposal SCI and SCIF strongly opposed and urged the FWS not to submit such a proposal. Ultimately, they did not.

Mexican Bighorn Sheep: Although FWS said it was unlikely to submit a proposal to remove Mexico's population of bighorn sheep from Appendix II, SCI and SCIF encouraged them to work with Mexico to propose the delisting.

OF THE MANY POSSIBLE PROPOSALS, SO FAR TWO WERE PARTICULARLY NOTABLE TO SCI AND SCIF

African Species: Of note for SCI, species proposals will be considered for elephant, southern white rhino, and hippopotamus. A proposal to uplist hippo from Appendix II to Appendix I is likely the biggest threat and most likely to occur. SCI and SCIF, among many others, will lobby against the proposal.

EU Block Vote: European Parliament's Environmental Committee is considering a draft motion for a resolution that announces the Committee's position on many relevant CITES issues. Even if adopted, the resolution is non-binding, but it could influence the way many Parties vote at CoP19, including the entire European Union. SCI and SCIF will assess the resolution once released.

Moving the Needle | *Public Relations and Communications*

In addition to advocating in the legal and legislative arenas, SCI also advocates for hunting through various public relations and public communications efforts. These range from strategically placing op-eds and letters to the editor in print and digital publications, running pro-hunting advertisements and conducting social media campaigns.

SOCIAL MEDIA

This quarter SCI hired former intern Chris La Civita, Jr. as our Digital Marketing Specialist. In the last months, SCI has posted hundreds of pro-hunting messages and news items on all of SCI's social media platforms. Posts include news about court cases SCI is involved in, travel developments affecting hunters, blog posts from the SCI website, SCIF conservation efforts, chapter news and more.





About SCI

Safari Club International (SCI) is the leading defender of the freedom to hunt and supporter of wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI is unique in the scope of our ability to defend and advance our freedom to hunt, mobilizing 143 chapters and an affiliate network representing 7.2 million hunters around the world.

SCI is also the only hunting rights organization with an international advocacy team based in Washington, D.C. and an all-species focus. In the U.S., SCI's fulltime staff of professional advocates speak for hunters at federal and state levels on important issues such as access to hunting on public lands and the authority of states to manage their wildlife.

Through SCI's Hunter Advocacy Action Center (HAAC), SCI educates and activates hunter advocates on issues in their communities and states, as well as nationwide. SCI's chapter networks in Canada and Europe are involved in advocacy on local and global hunting issues, protecting sportsmen's rights to hunt and import trophies.

For more than two decades, SCI has been the major defender of hunting in courtrooms throughout the country.

SCI is First for Hunters.